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PART THREE OF SEVEN

ROADS IN COLLISION

QUASAR

TM

THE
ENEMY
REVEALED!



CK



WENDELL VAUGHN . . . THE FIRST EARTH MAN EVER APPOINTED PROTECTOR OF THE UNIVERSE. BONDED TO THE ENERGY-TRANSFORMING QUANTUM-BANDS THAT ARE BOTH WEAPONS AND SYMBOLS OF HIS STATION, HE FIGHTS AN ONGOING BATTLE TO DEFEND ALL LIFE IN THE UNIVERSE FROM COSMIC EVIL.

STAN LEE PRESENTS . . . QUASAR!

PROLOGUE ARMS AND THE MAN

THERE IS SPACE PAST KNOWN SPACE, SO FAR BEYOND THE STARS THAT STARLIGHT HAS YET TO REACH IT. IT IS A PLACE WHERE ONLY CERTAIN ABSTRACT ENTITIES OF THE UNIVERSE DARE TO GO, A PLACE WHERE THEY CAN CONVENE IN UTMOST PRIVACY.

APPROACHING THE LORD OF THE OUTER VOID IS AN ETHEREAL YOUNG UPSTART, NEW TO THE WAYS OF POWER BEYOND POWER. THIS IS HIS FIRST JOURNEY OUTSIDE KNOWN SPACE. BUT IF THERE IS ANY TREPIDATION IN HIS SOUL, HE KNOWS ENOUGH NOT TO BETRAY IT.

WHAT TRANSPiRES HERE OCCURS IN THE PAST, AS TIME IS RECKONED FROM EARTH.

O GREAT OBLIVION, PROGENITOR OF DEATH AND MASTER OF ALL THAT ISN'T, I IMPORE YOU TO GRANT ME AN AUDIENCE.

SPEAK.

I AM THE NEW ANOMALY. I HAVE SLAIN THE OLD AND ASSUMED ITS NICK IN THE COSMOLOGICAL HIERARCHY.

I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOUR RELATIONSHIP WAS WITH MY PREDECESSOR BUT IT IS MY FONDEST WISH TO FORGE A STRONG ALLIANCE BETWEEN US FOR THE MUTUAL ADVANCEMENT OF OUR RESPECTIVE PRINCIPLES.

CONTINUE.

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THIS IS MY GOAL:
TO COLLAPSE THE
ENTIRE UNIVERSE
INTO A SINGLE
ANOMALOUS POINT,
THEREBY RENDERING
ALL THAT IS INTO
YOUR DOMAIN,
THE REALM
OF TRACKLESS
OBIVION.

YOU ARE NOTHING IF NOT
AMBITIOUS, ANOMALY. DO
YOU NOT REALIZE THAT ANY
SUCH ATTEMPT TO UPSET THE
COSMIC BALANCE WILL
TILT THE SUPREME
POWERS OF THE UNIVERSE
AGAINST YOU?

LET ME WORRY ABOUT THEM, MOST LEARNED
AND POWERFUL MASTER. DO I HAVE YOUR
BLESSING TO UNDERTAKE THIS TASK?

YES. WHAT
IS IT YOU
NEED TO
PROCEED?

COSMIC
AWARENESS--
OMNISCIENCE--
THE CAPACITY TO
KNOW THE ENTIRE
UNIVERSE IN ALL
ITS DEPTH AND
COMPLEXITY.

SEEK EON, ONE OF THE TIME BEINGS. HE IS
THE LEAST POWERFUL OF ALL THE VARIOUS
ENTITIES WHO POSSESS THAT ATTRIBUTE
IN ITS TOTALITY.

YOU HAVE THE GREATEST CHANCE
OF WRESTING ITS SECRET FROM ONE
AS FEEBLE AS HIM.

THANK YOU FOR YOUR
COUNSEL, O GREAT
OBIVION. I SHALL KEEP
YOU INFORMED OF
MY PROGRESS.

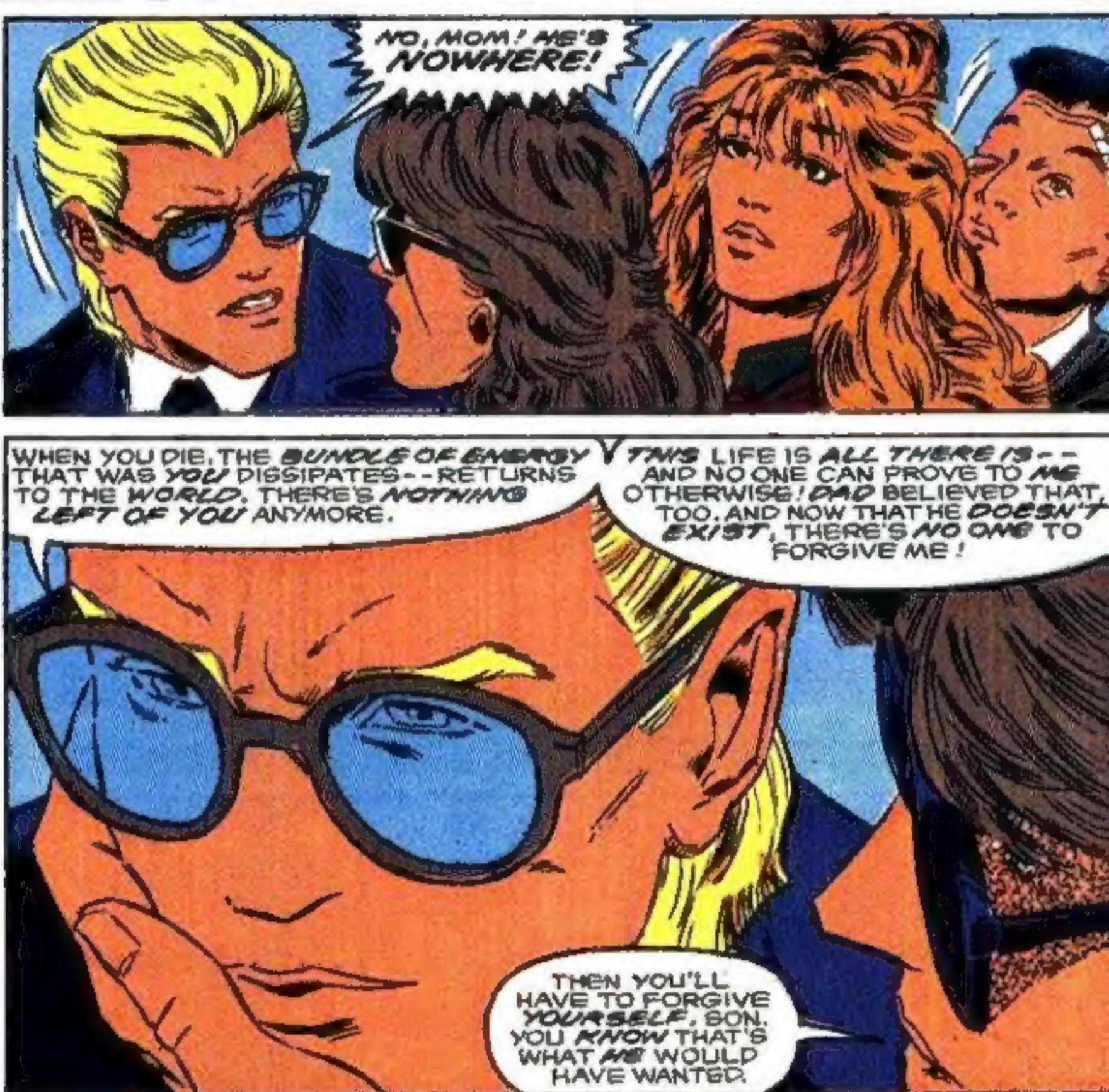
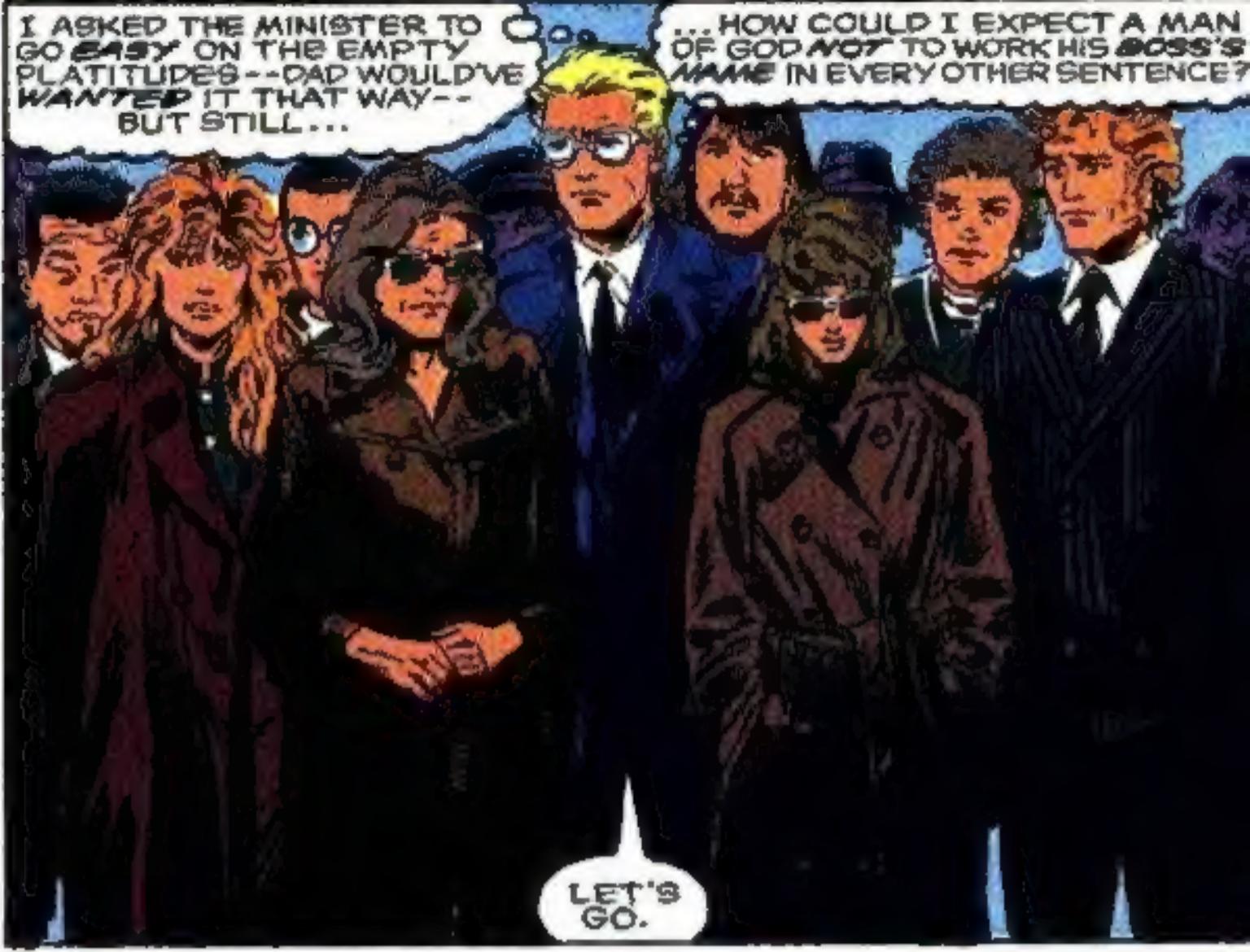
I GO!

THAT
FIGURE...
WASN'T
THAT?

YES,
DEATHURGE,
IT WAS.

AFTER ALL THIS TIME,
I FINALLY UNDERSTAND
WHY YOU MADE ME TO POSE
AS HIS UNDERLING. YOU KNEW
HE WOULD ONE DAY TRANSCEND
HIS MORTAL SHELL AND
ATTAIN A STATION IN WHICH
HE MIGHT SERVE YOU,
DIDN'T YOU?

ASPECTS OF THE FUTURE ARE BEST
CONTEMPLATED IN THE VOID.



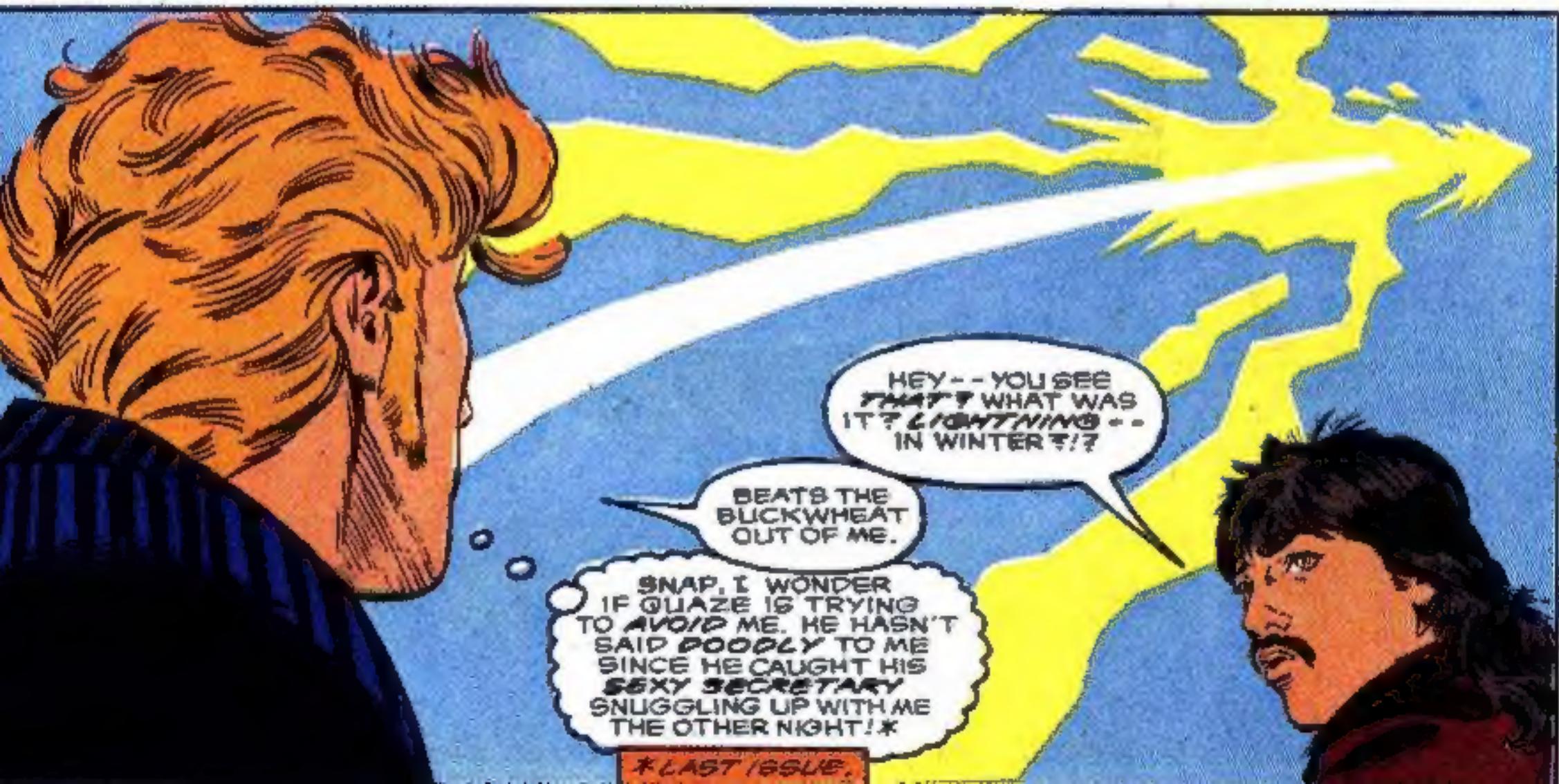
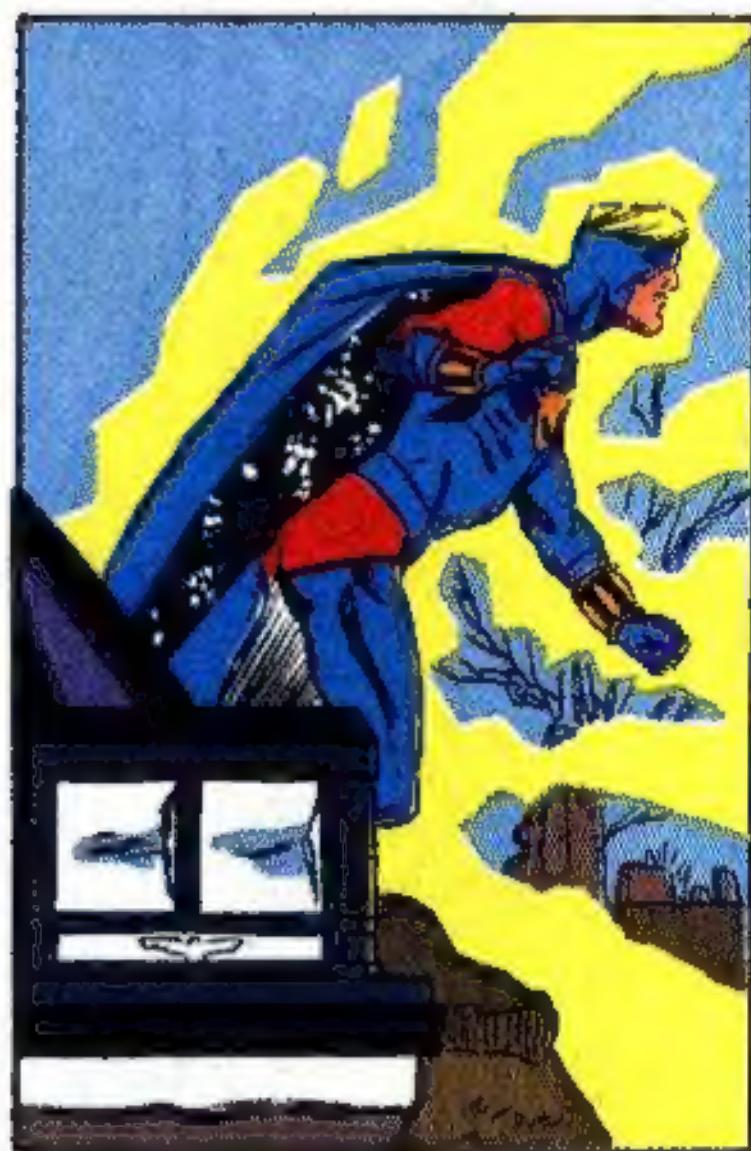
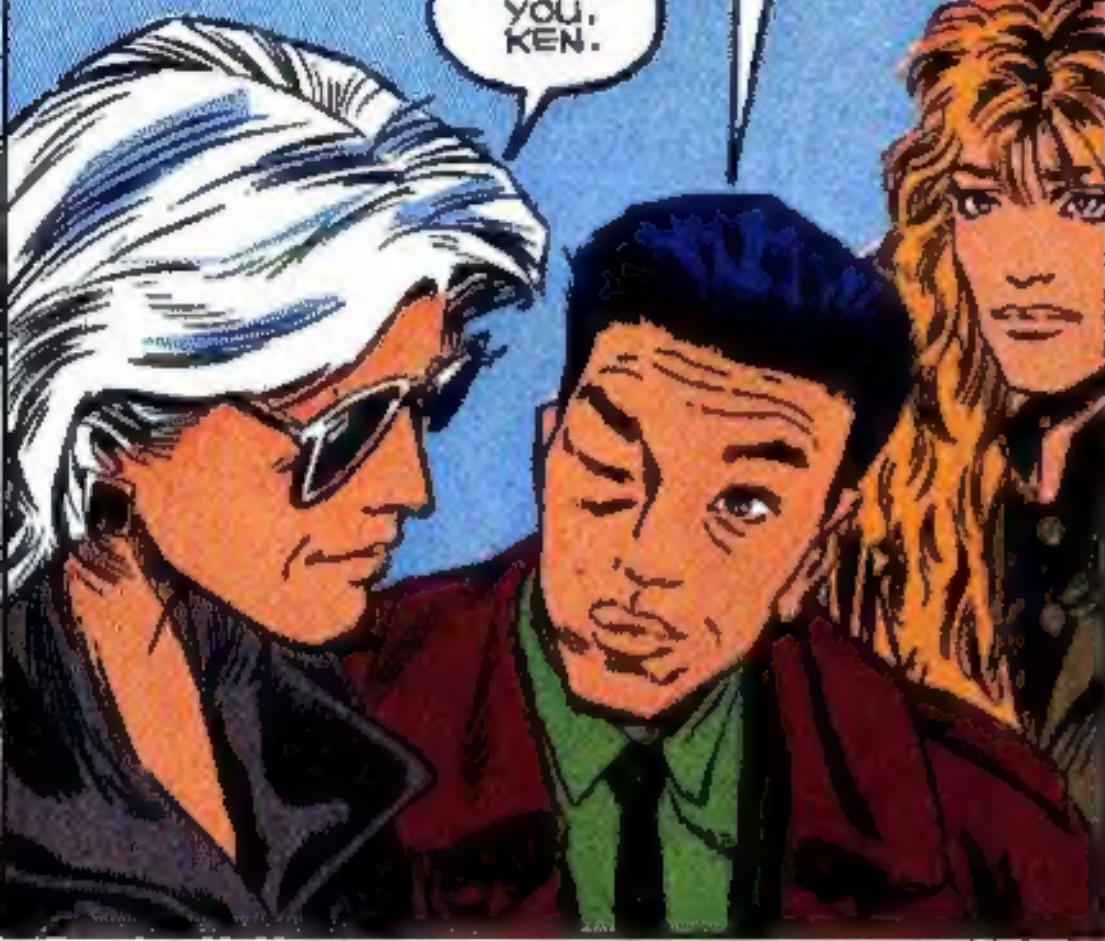
MRS. VAUGHN TALKED TO KEN TANAKA. DON'T WORRY ABOUT
WENDELL. HE'LL BE OKAY. HE'S GOT A LOT OF
FRIENDS -- WE'LL SEE TO IT.

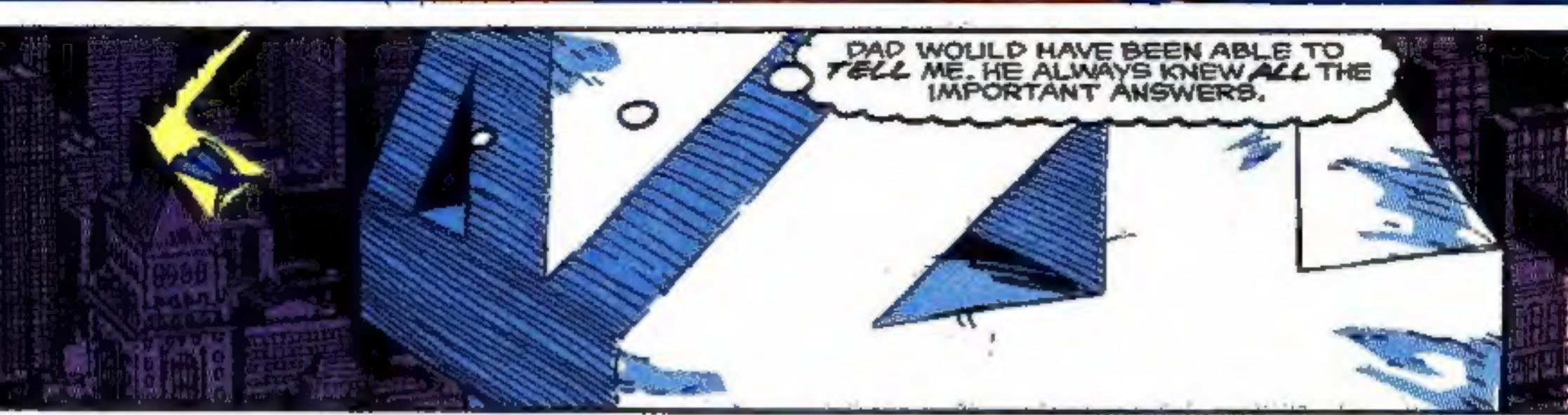
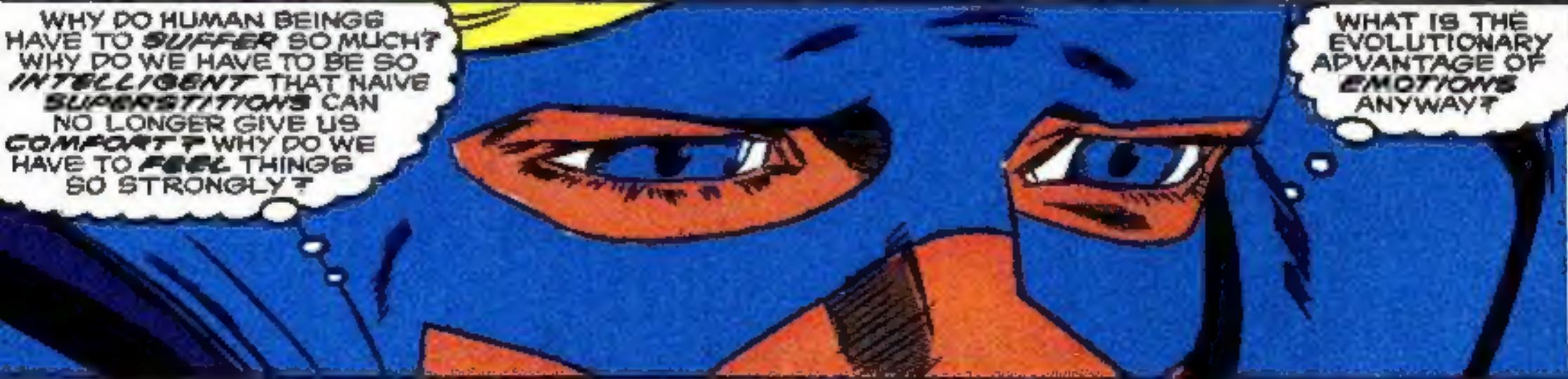
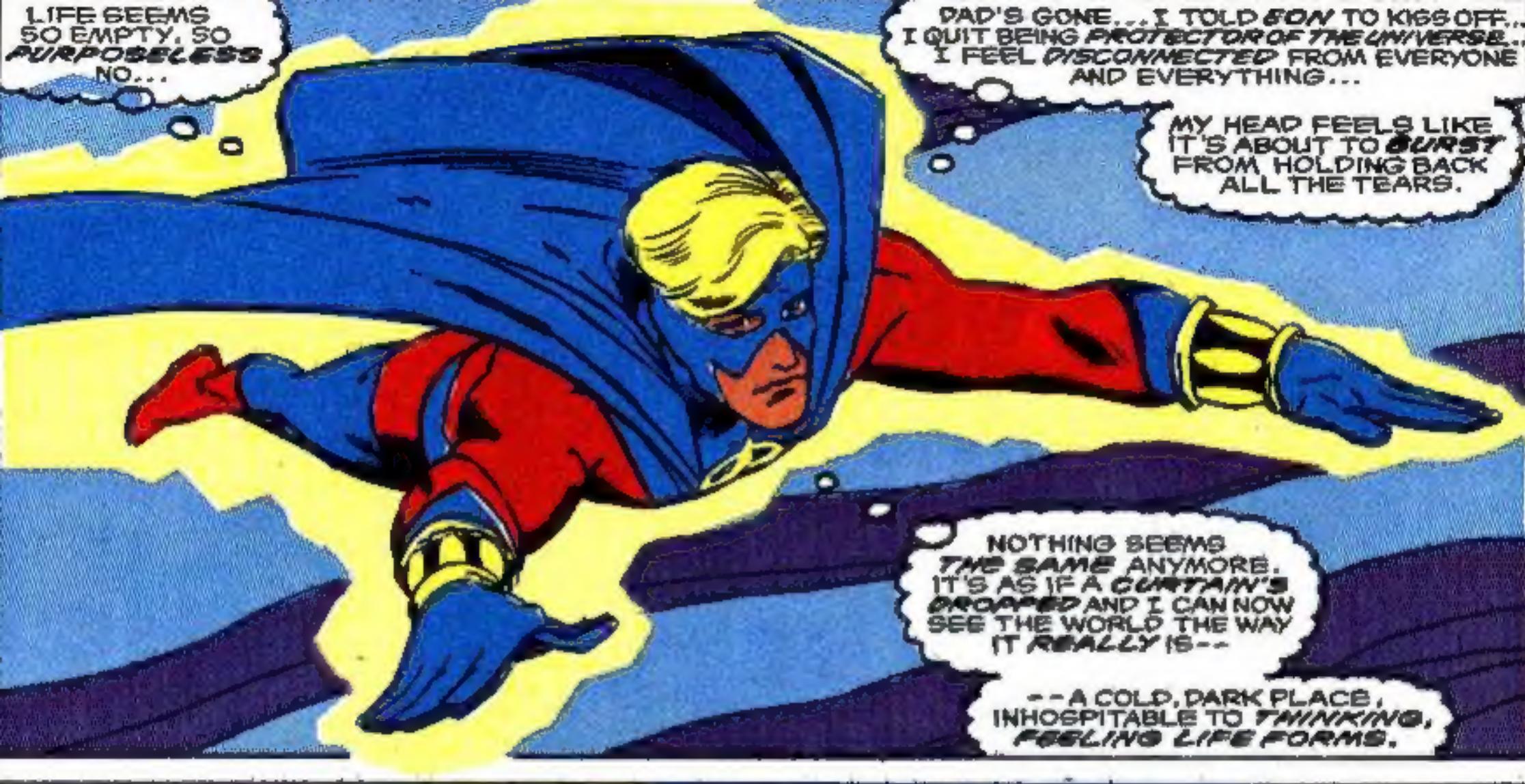
THANK
YOU,
KEN.

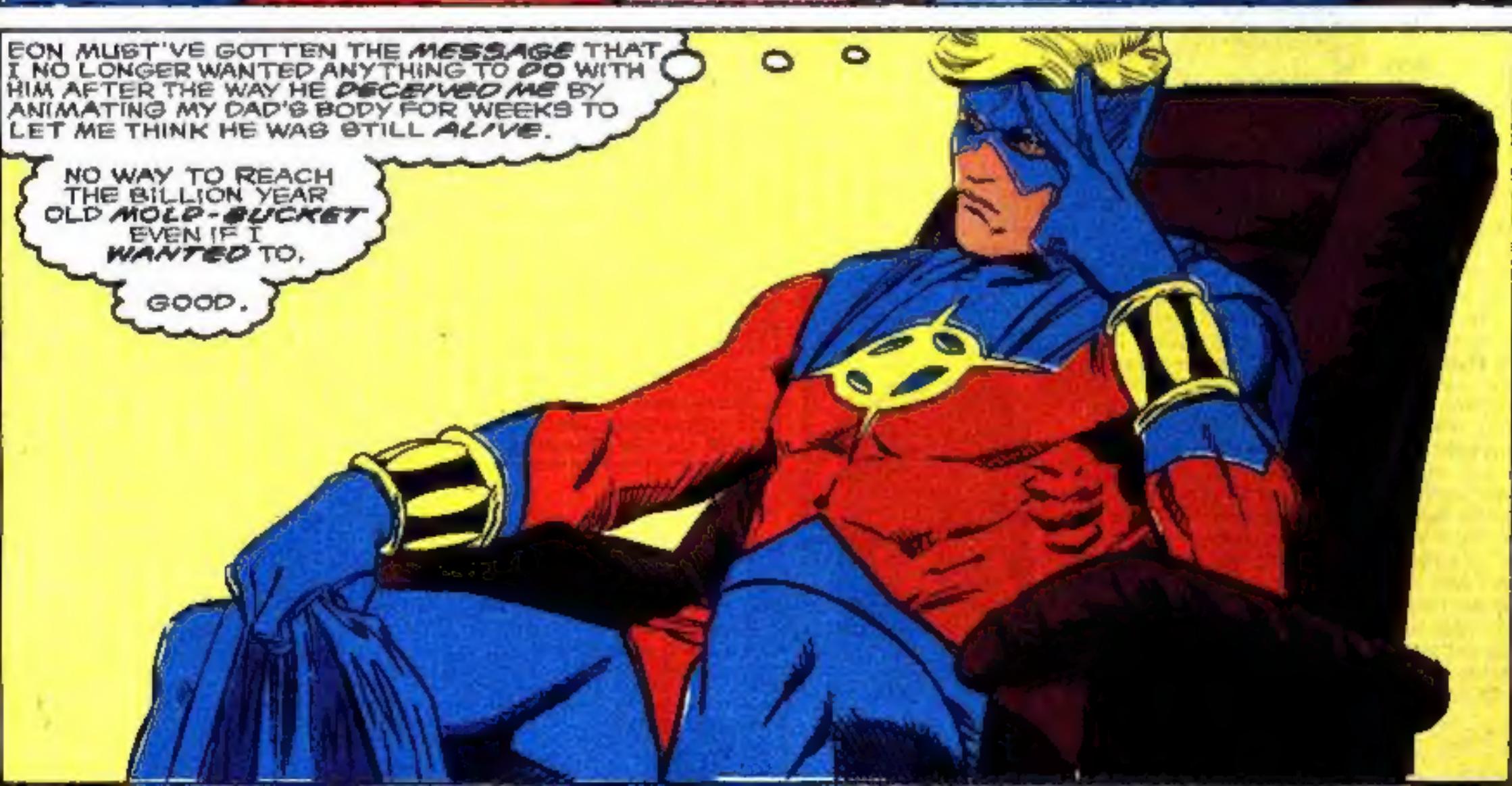
THIS IS LIKE MEARD.
IN THE TWO MILLENNIA
OR SO I'VE BEEN
AROUND, THIS IS THE
FIRST HUMAN FUNERAL
I'VE EVER ATTENDED.

SO BIZARRE HOW
HUMANS HAVE TO LIVE
EVERY DAY OF THEIR LIVES
KNOWING THEY'RE GONNA
DIE. GLAD I'M AN
ETERNAL. I DON'T
KNOW IF I COULD
HANDLE THE CONSTANT
MORBIDITY.

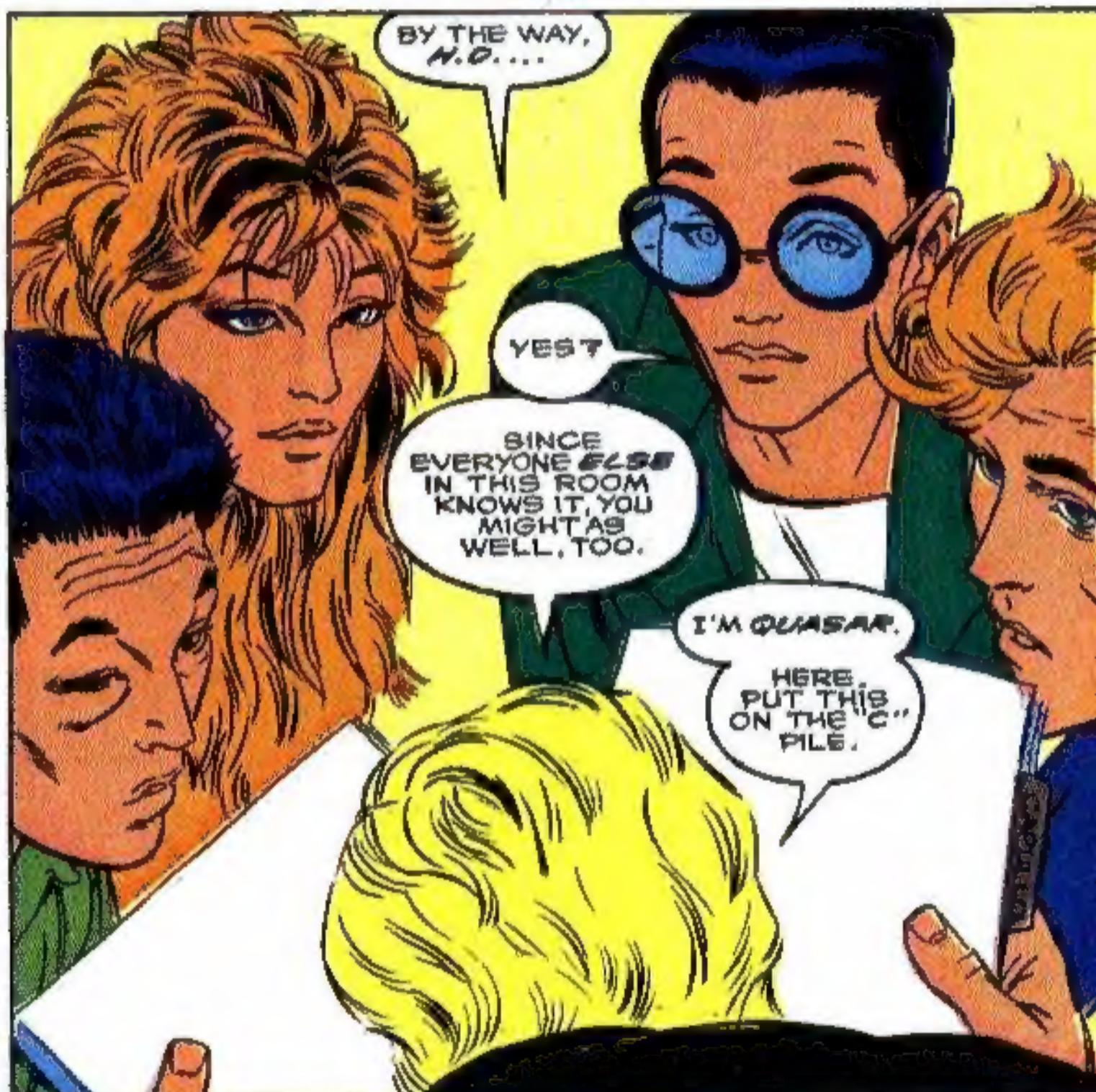
IF IT WAS A
MISTAKE TO
BEFRIEND
MORTALS LIKE
I DID.
FRIENDSHIP
WITH THEM
IS SO...
TRANSIENT.







THE NEXT DAY...

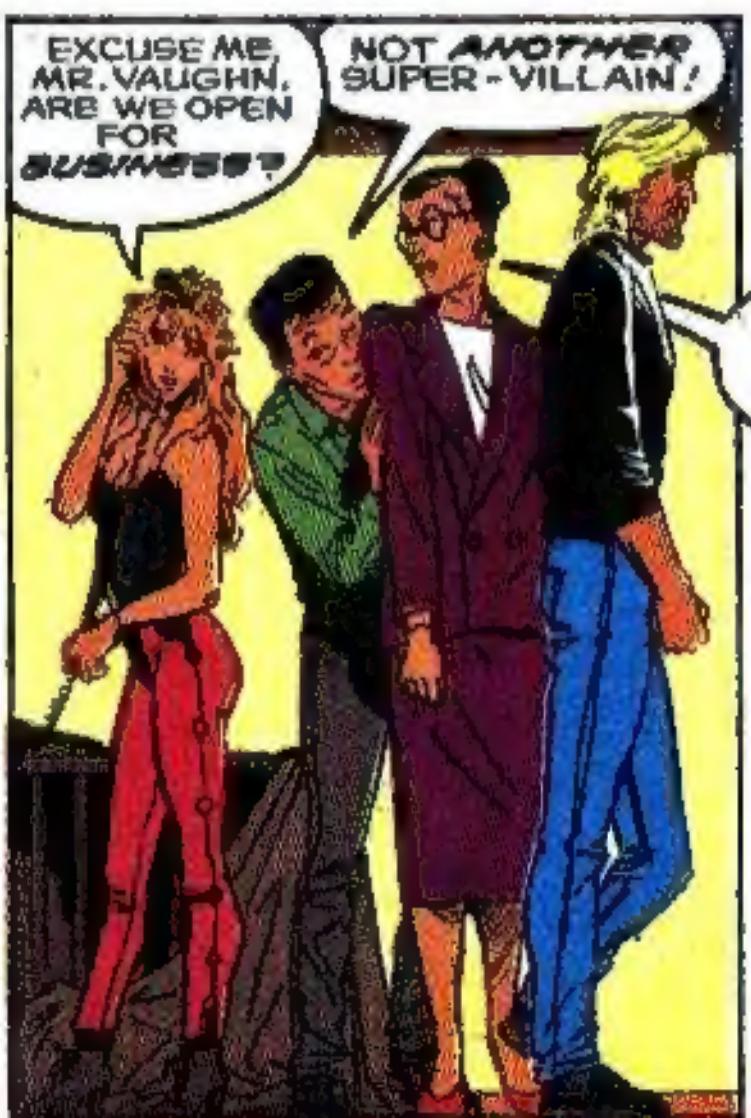


AHEM. WHILE WE'RE ON THE SUBJECT OF SECRETS AND ALL, I'VE GOT A CONFESSION TO MAKE THAT ONLY ONE PERSON IN THIS ROOM KNOWS.

MY REAL NAME ISN'T MIKE KHARY--IT'S MAKKARI, AND I'M ONE OF THE ETERNALS, A LITTLE-KNOWN GENETIC OFFSHOOT OF THE HUMAN RACE.

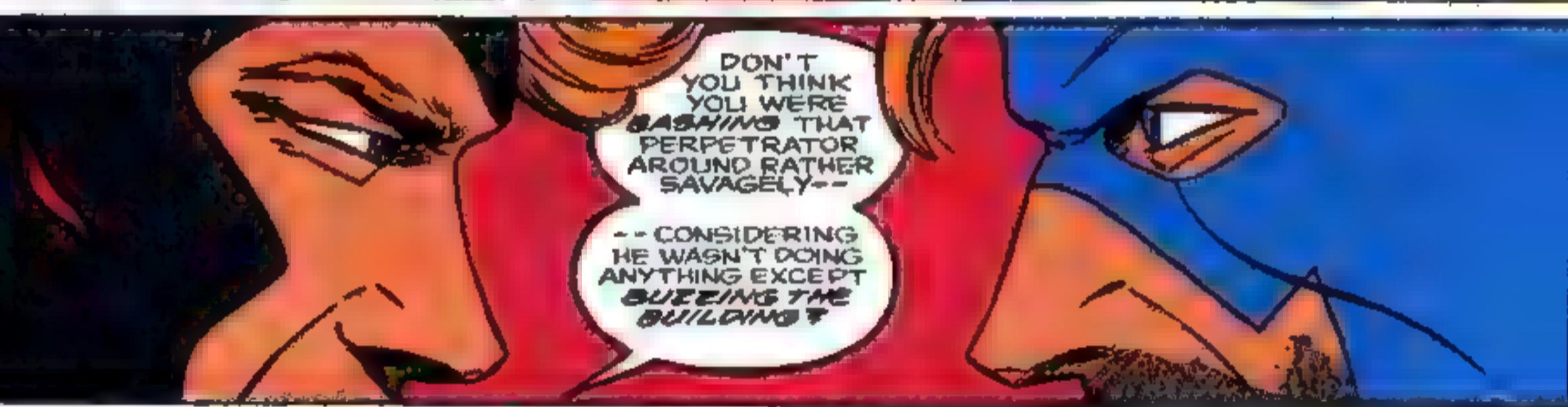
NOT TO WORRY, THOUGH. I ASSURE YOU MY KIND CAN STILL MATE WITH YOUR KIND.





YOU THERE!
STOP AND EXPLAIN
YOURSELF!





LATER THAT DAY...

SO THERMO'S AT THE HOSPITAL IN STABLE CONDITION...

HE CONFESSED THAT HE WAS HOPING TO RAID FANTASTIC FOUR HEADQUARTERS THROUGH THIS BREACH IN THE BUILDING... NOT THAT HIS STATEMENT TO ME WOULD HOLD UP IN A COURT OF LAW.

YOU GUYS DID A TERRIFIC JOB STRAIGHTENING UP WITHOUT ME, LOOKS LIKE.

JUST BEFORE YOU LEFT, WE GOT A PHONE CALL FROM A MR STROMBERG.

APPARENTLY, HE'S THIS SUPER RICH GUY ON LONG ISLAND WHO WANTS A STATE OF THE ART SECURITY SYSTEM FOR HIS NEW ESTATE.

TAKE HIS NUMBER?

AND...

ANYONE UP FOR DINNER AT A BILLIONAIRE'S MANSION TONIGHT? HE'S INVITED ME AND MY WHOLE STAFF.

ME TOO

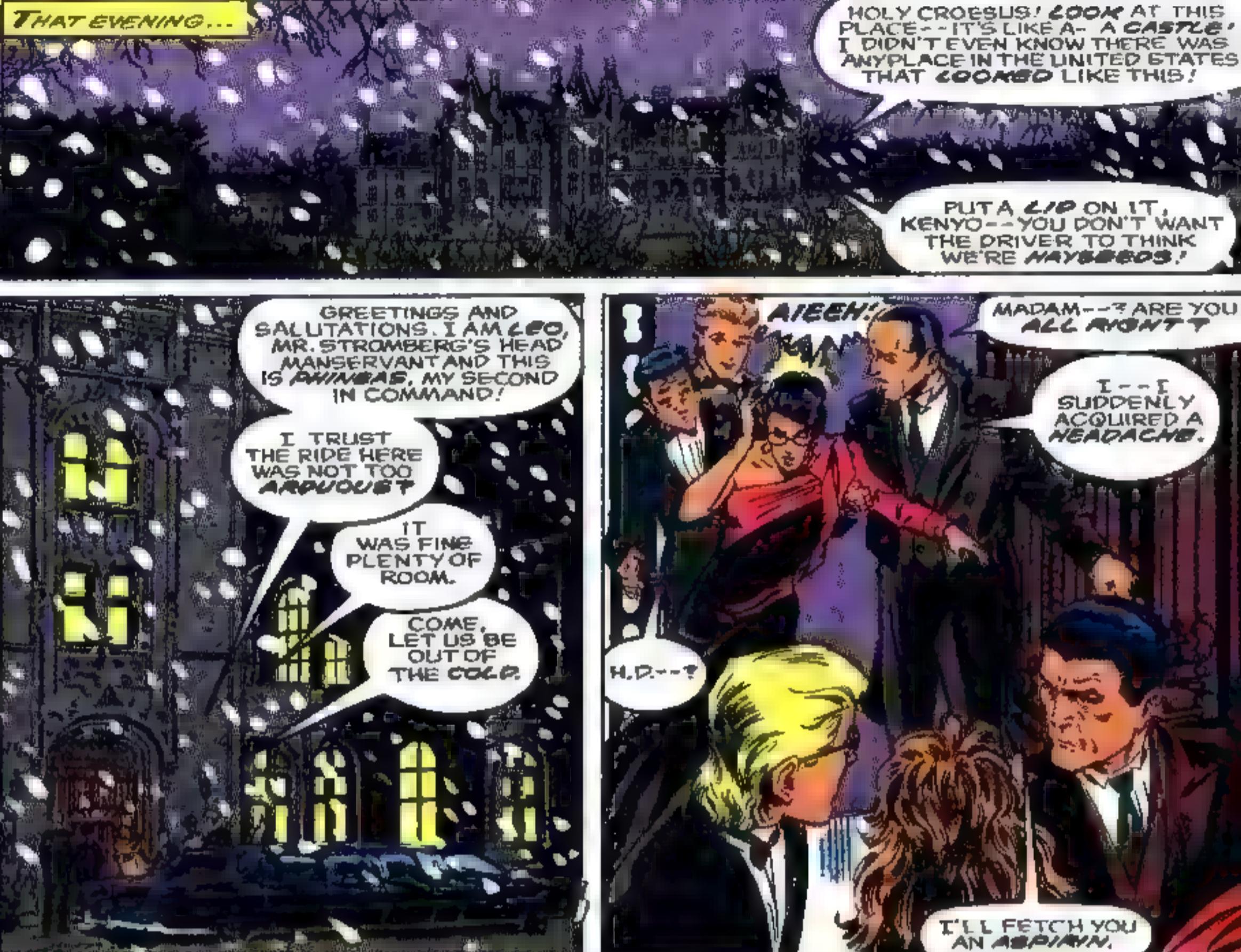
ARE YOU SURE YOU'RE UP FOR THIS TYPE OF THING, MR. VAUGHN?

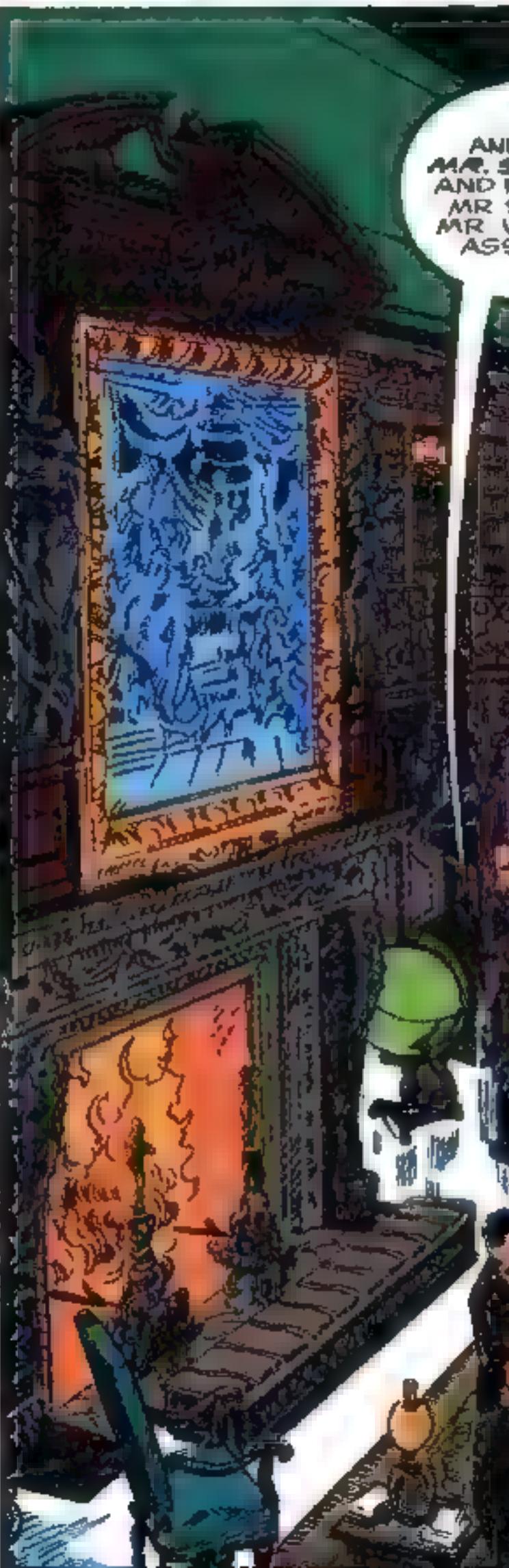
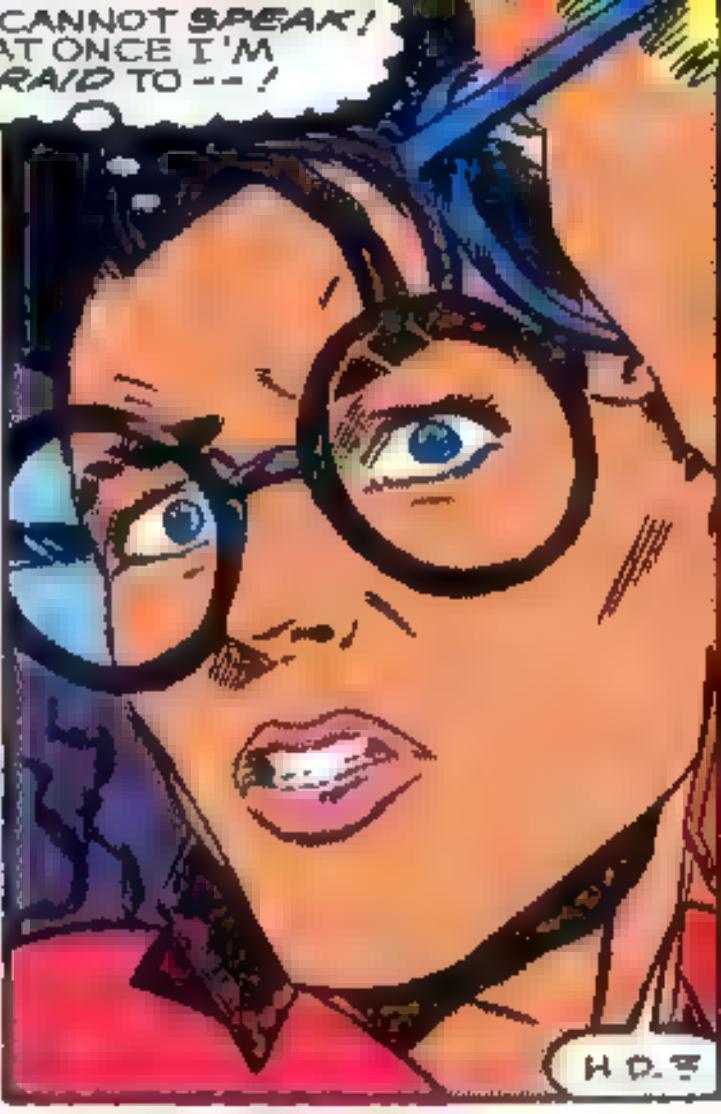
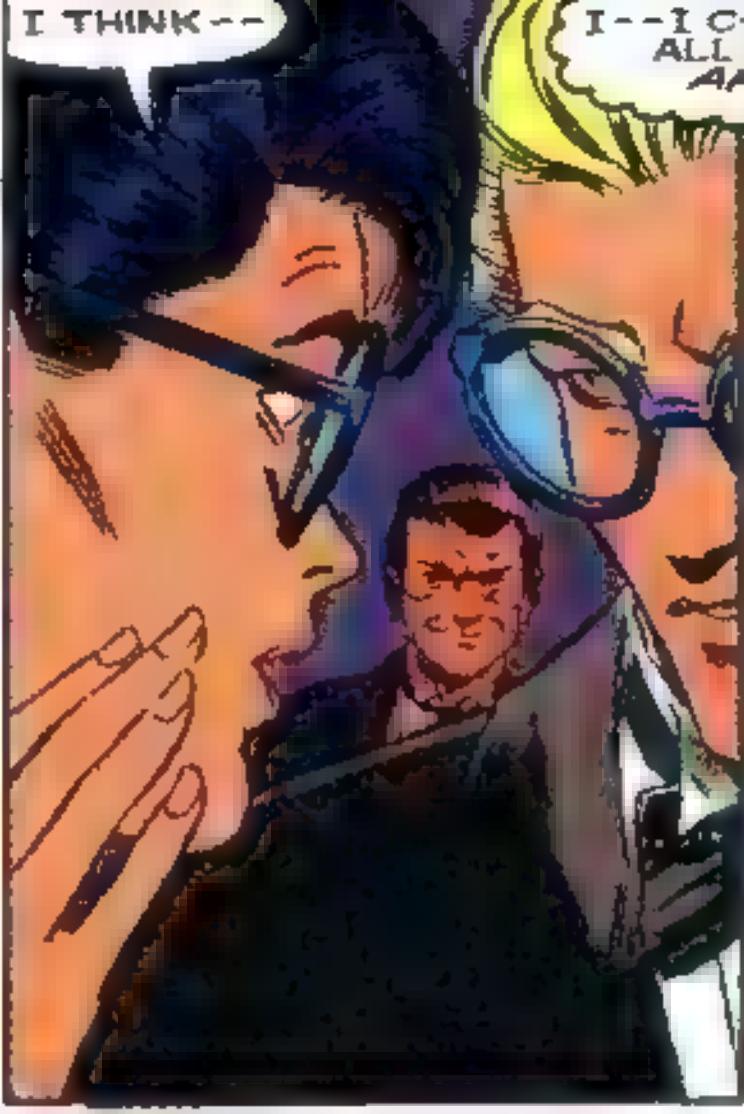
I'M UP FOR ANYTHING THAT TAKES MY MIND OFF REALITY.

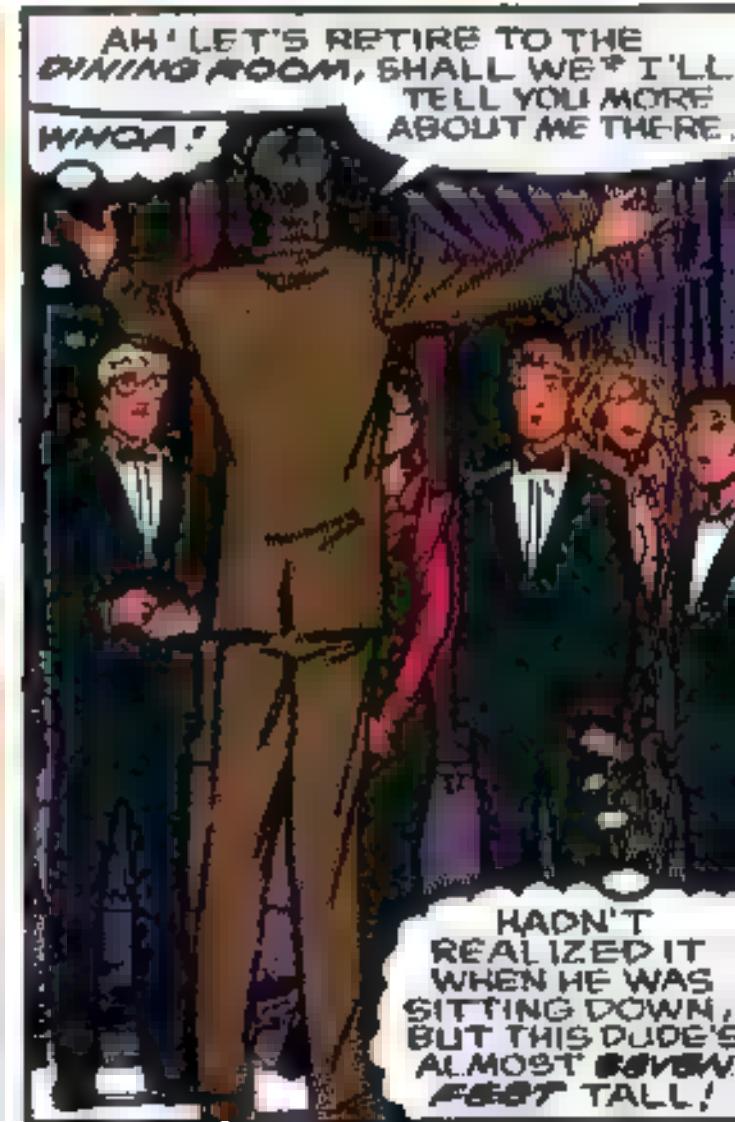
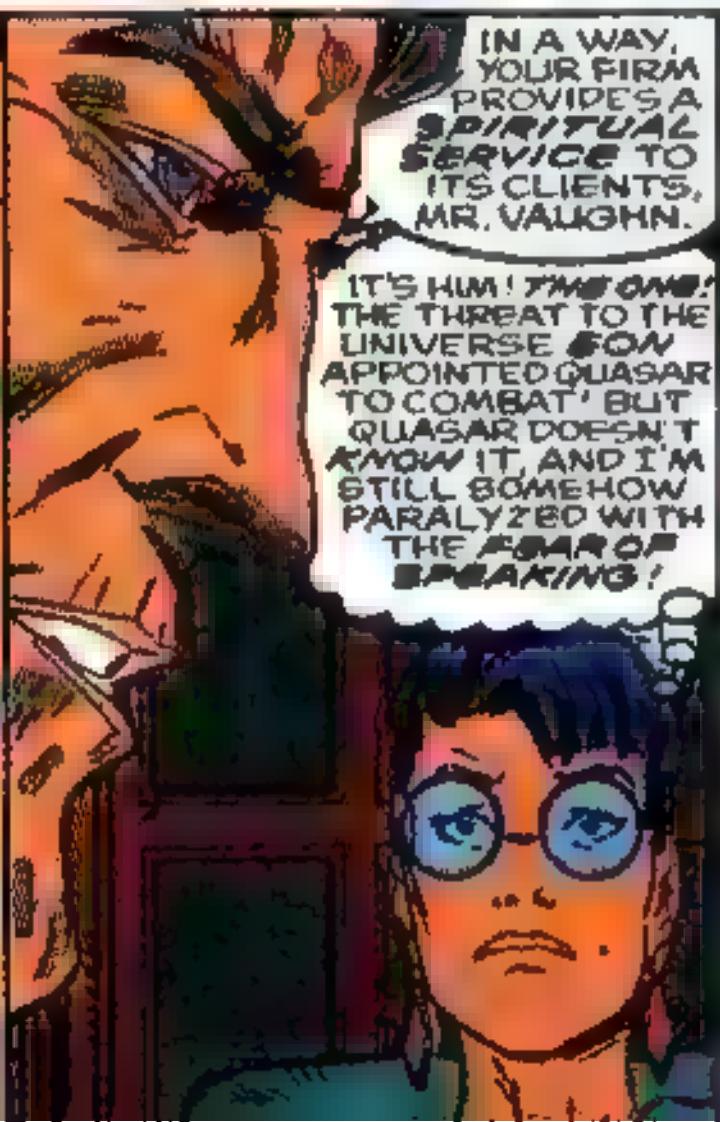
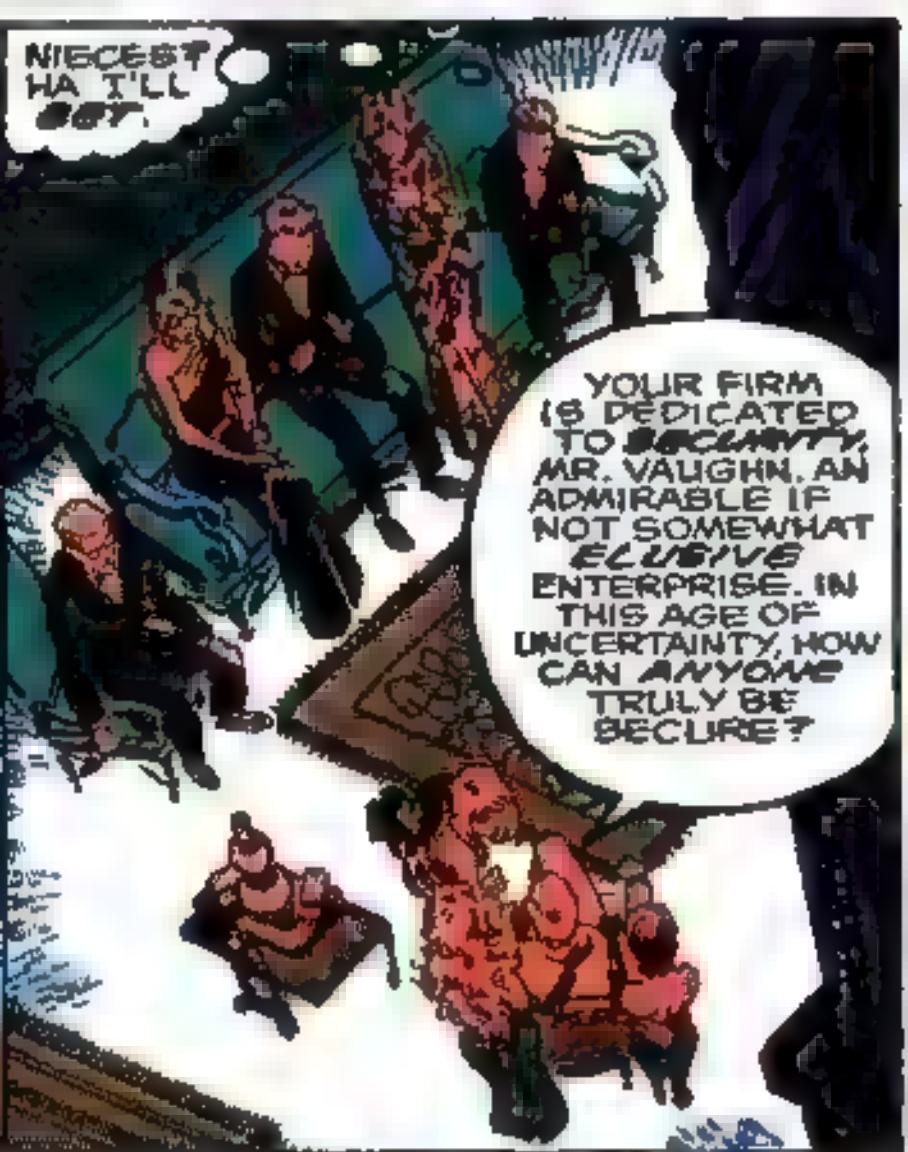
YES TELL MR STROMBERG THERE WILL BE FIVE OF US, YES, A CAR WOULD BE NICE.

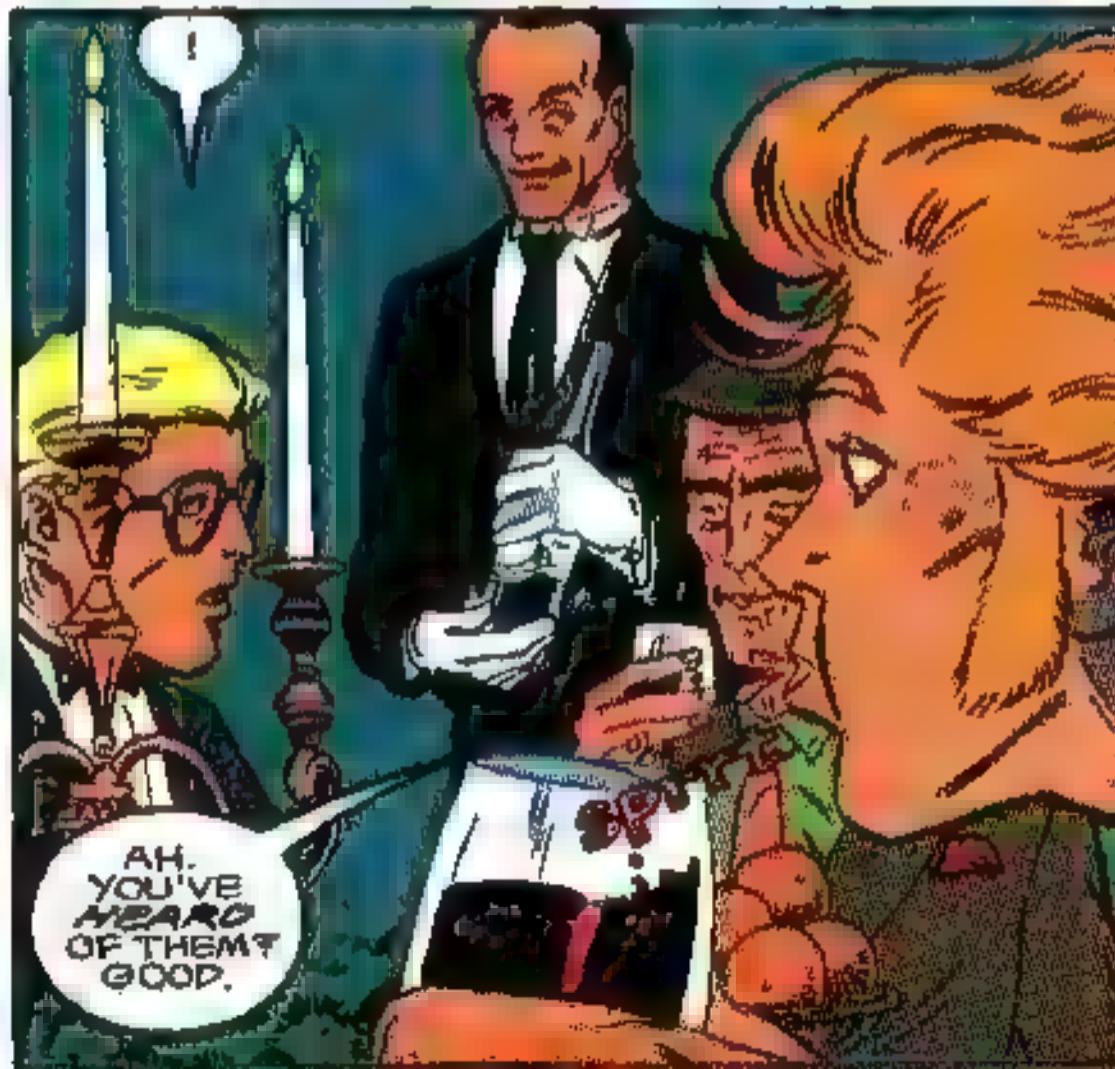
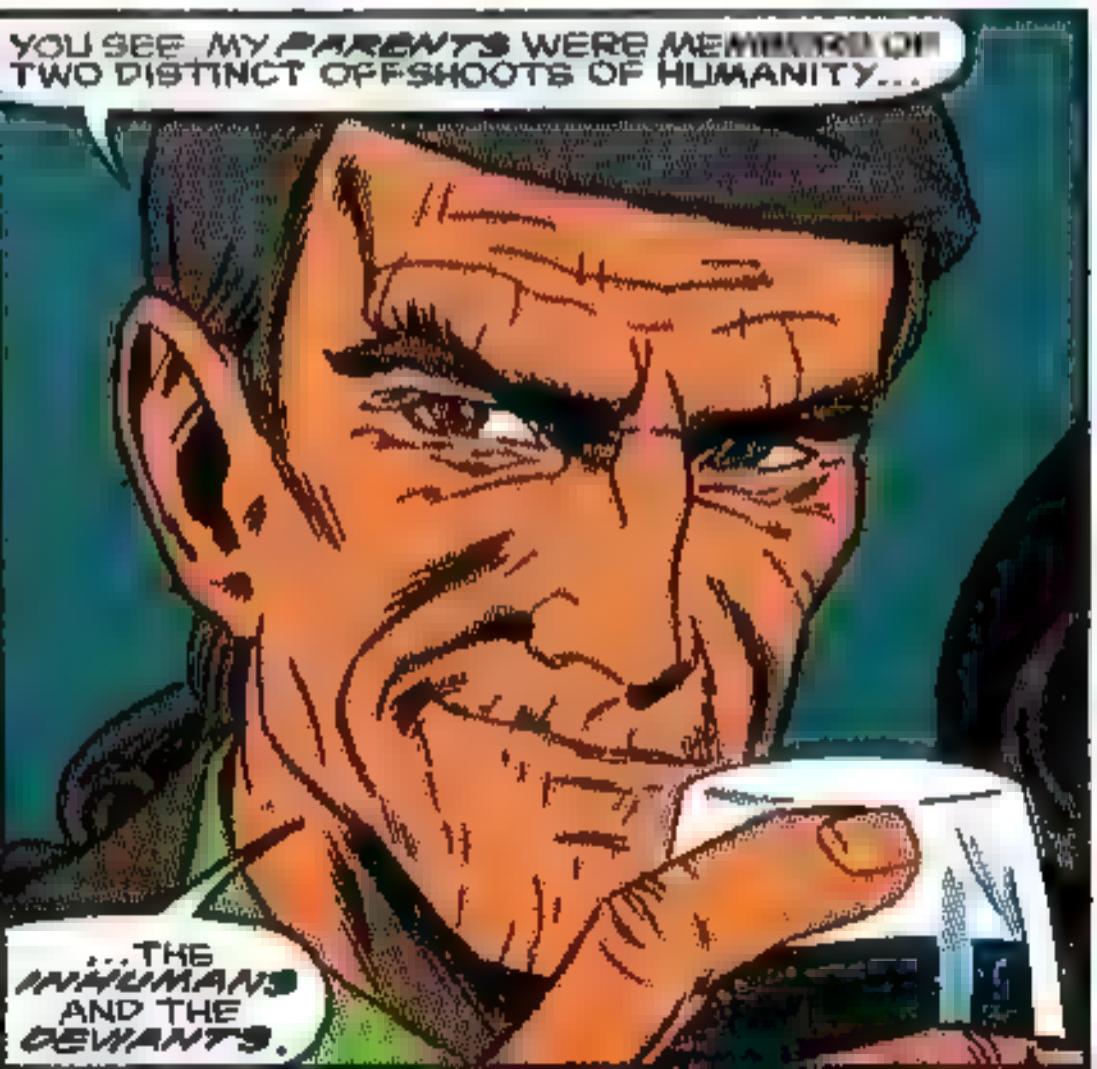
A BROTHER OF MINE OWNS A TUXEDO RENTAL SHOP...

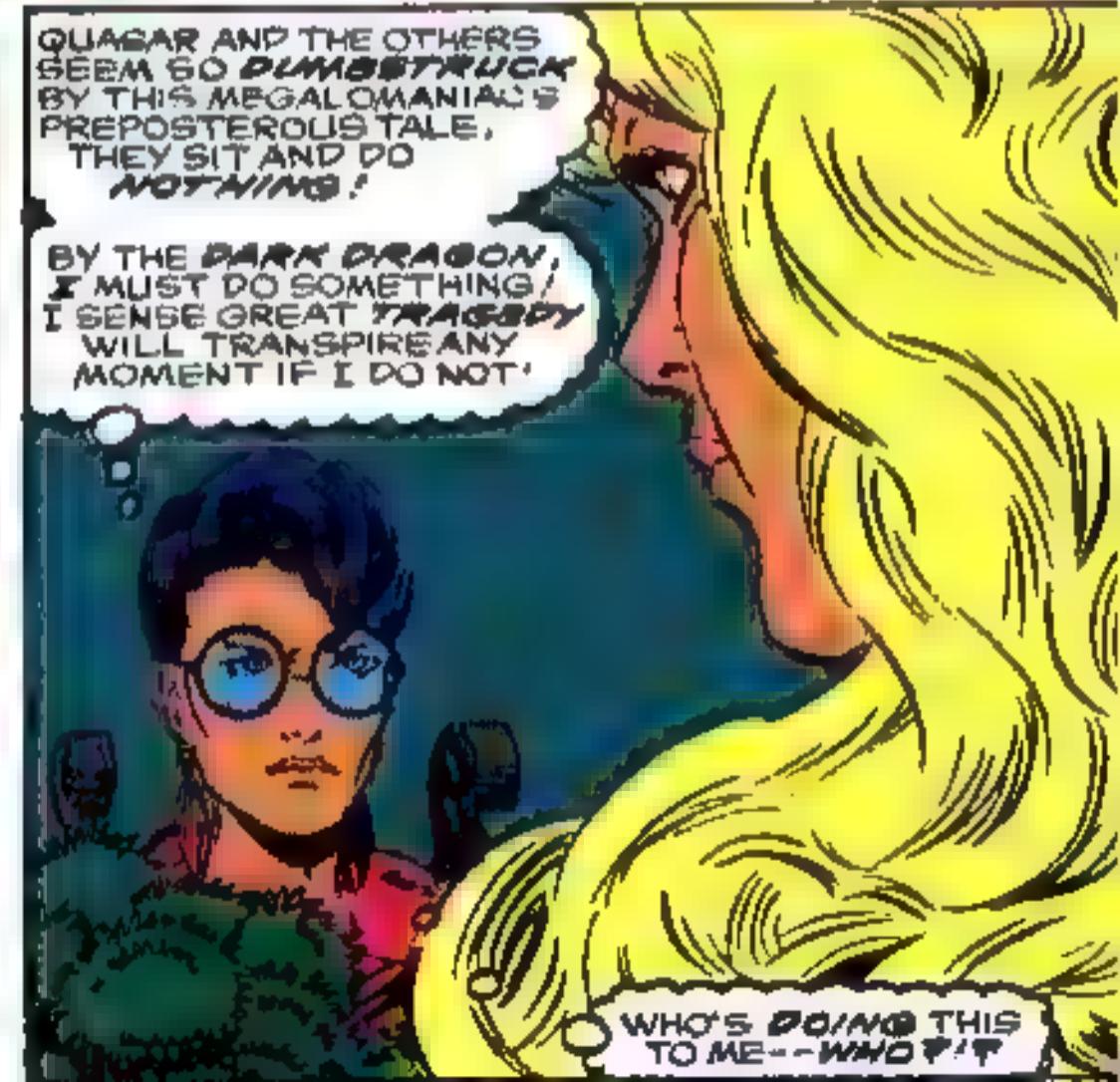
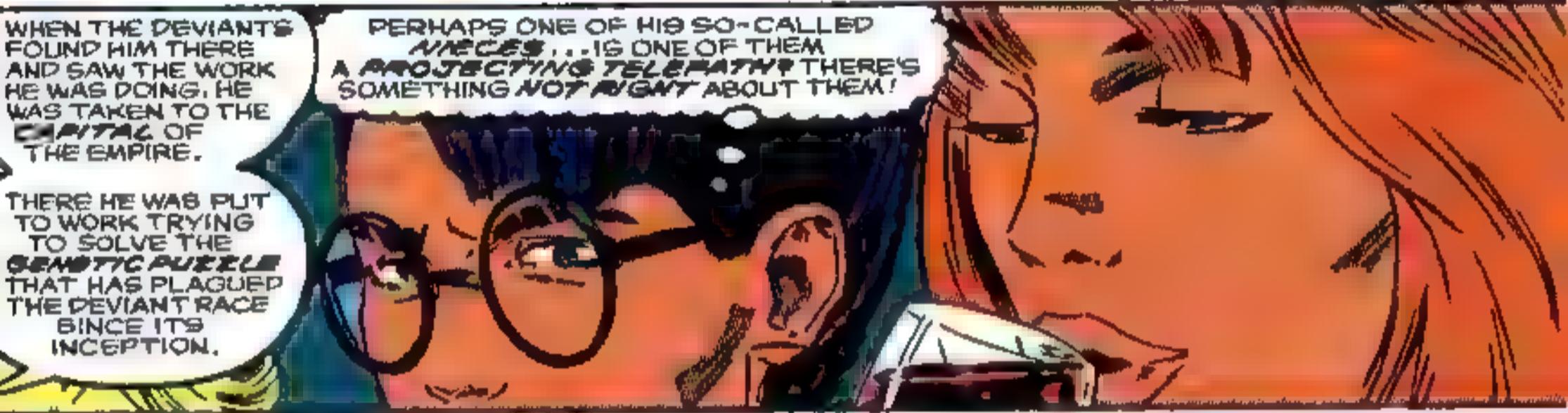
THAT EVENING...

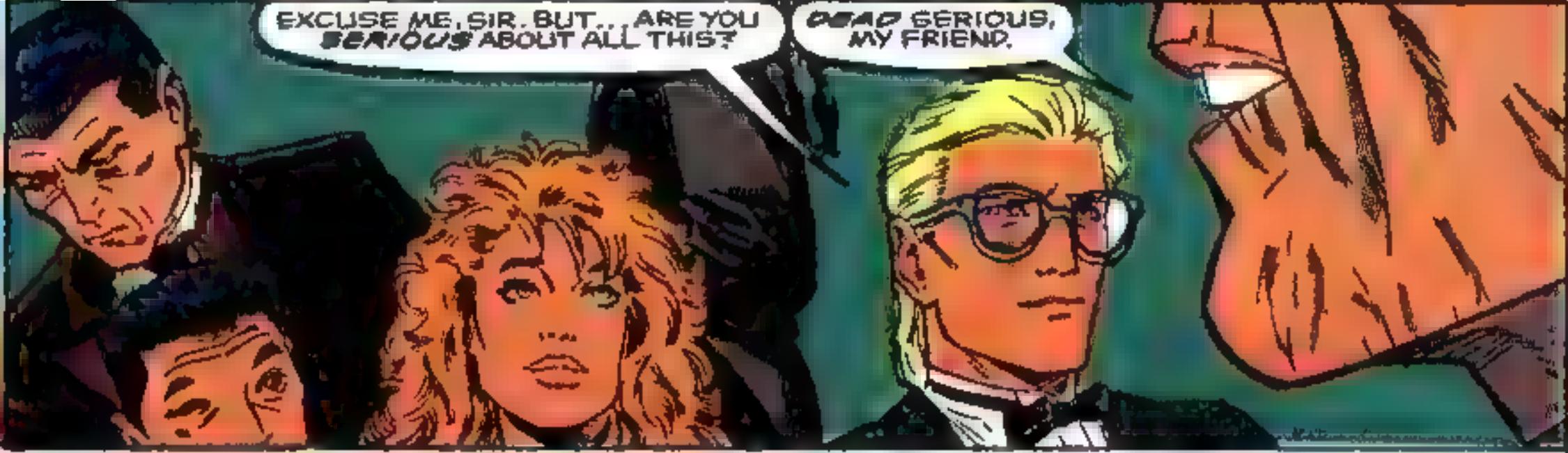












NNNYHHHHH!



SUCH MANNERS.

YOU SEE, THE POWER I HAVE HOLDS YOUR LIFE AND THAT OF ALL YOUR FRIENDS IN THE BALANCE EVEN AS IT HOLDS THAT ARMED MOTIONLESS IN THE AIR.

YOU WOULD NOT CARE FOR A FURTHER DEMONSTRATION, I ASSURE YOU.



THIS IS ALL SOME SORT OF TRAP, OOP
AND LIKE A JERK I WALTZED INTO IT WITH A BUNCH OF MOSTAGES.

WHAT'S GOING ON
WHY DID H D THROW
THAT KNIFE? HOW'S
IT HANGIN THERE
LIKE THAT?

WEIRD JUNK
GOING DOWN--
THIS STROMBERG
ANOTHER
OF VAUGHN'S
SUPER-FOOD
OR WHAT?

CONNIVING
HALFBREED DEEV---

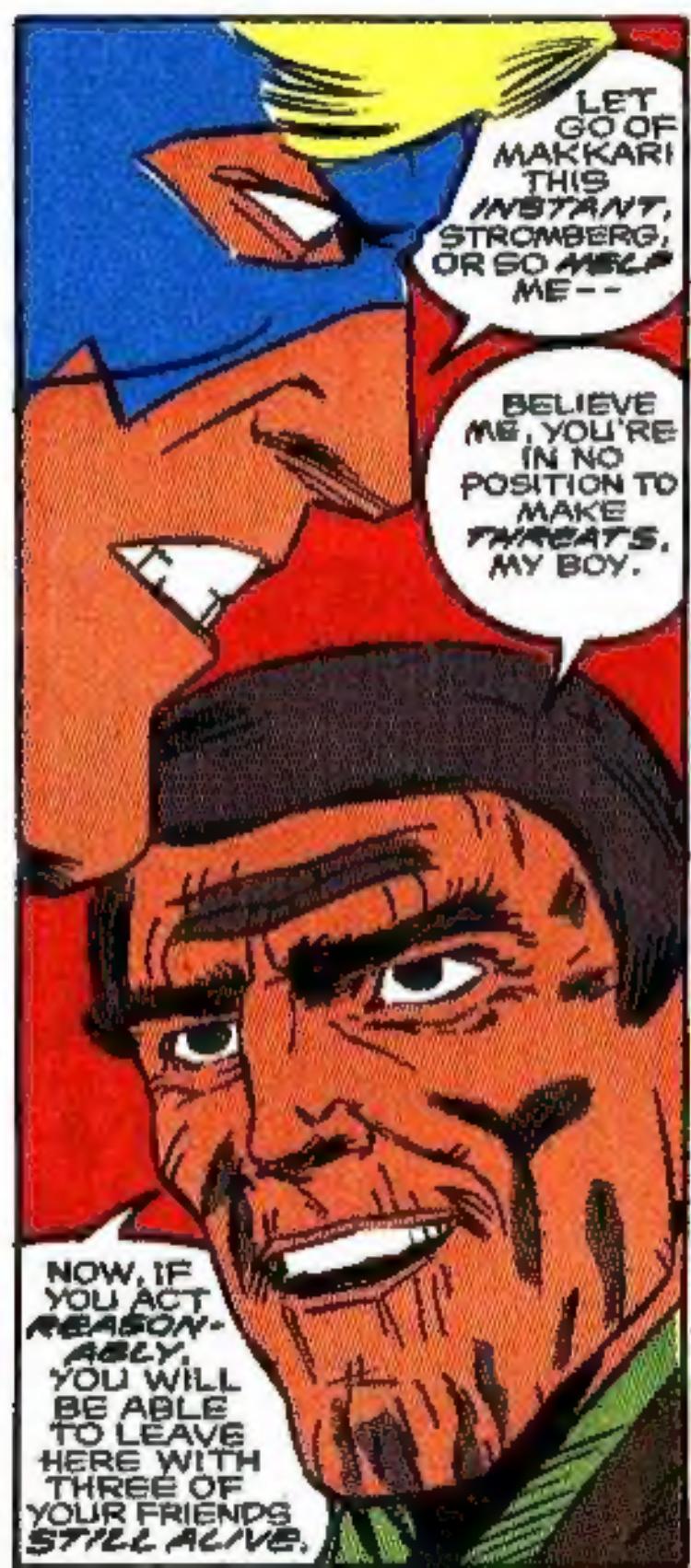
WHAT
ARE YOU
WAITING
FOR,
QUASAR?

I DON'T
TAKE
KINDLY TO
THREATS,
STROMBERG

THREATS?
HAVE I
MADE ANY
THREATS?









FIVE GRISLY MINUTES
LATER...



NEXT: A LONG DAY'S JOURNEY INTO DEATH!